(c) Due to sudden spurt in the demand for these Isomers there is a gap in the demand and supply position for these Isomers. However, to meet the temporary shortage, supplementary licence for import of these Isomers are being granted. Additional capacities for these items have been approved by the Government, to meet the future demand.

Terms of reference of committees on drug issues

707. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 603 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1990 and state:

(a) what are the terms of reference of the standing committee, expert groups and of the permanent standing committee;

(b) when was permanent standing committee constituted;

(c) what are the details of meetings held upto the 30th April, 1990 of expert groups, standing committee and permanent standing committee; and

(d) what are the details of recommendations make by the permanent standing committee to the Ministry so far and what action has been taken on each?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) On 5-2-1990, the Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals have constituted a standing Committee to consider all matters connected with the review of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 and the representations made on various issues concerning Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 including inclusion/exclusion of drugs in the scheduled categories. According to the memorandum constituting the Standing Committee, 3 Exports Groups *viz.* Expert Group on Therapeutic issues, Expert Group on Technology issues and Expert Group on production and Turnover issues will assist the Standing Committee. These Expert Groups will examine all the issues concerning DPCO. 1987 and the representations received thereon and submit their reports of the Standing Committee for consideration and making a final recommendation to the Goverment. The Expert-Groups and the Standing Committee will meet once in 3 months or as and when required.

While the Expert Group on production and turnover issues has already met thrice, the other two Expert Groups as well as Standing Committee has met twice each. It is not in public interest to disclose the details of the recommendations of the Expert Groups as well as the Standing Committee at this stage.

Recovery of the amount due on Flucinolone Acetonide

708. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 710 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1990 and state :

(a) what are the points on which his Ministry has sought the opinion of the Law Ministry in respect of Flucinolone Acetonide;

(b) when was the opinion sought and what in the opinion of the Law Ministry on those issues; and

(c) by when the amount due from the company would be recovered ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) The opinion of the Department of Legal Affairs was sought on the question of coverage of Flucinolone Acetonide and its formulations under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 and recovery of the amounts overcharged by the company;

(b) The opinion was sought in March, 1990. Law Mtnisrty have advised that company should be proceeded against in terms of Paragraph 7 and 13 of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.